

Wycombe defeat title-chasing Leytonstone

Oxford Mail Special Report

WYCOMBE W. ... 2 : LEYTONSTONE 0

RETURNING to centre forward after two months out of the game, Paul Bates was prominent in a much-improved Wycombe attack which beat championship-chasers Leytonstone in an Isthmian League game at High Wycombe.

Wycombe Wanderers : Brown; Beck, Lewis; Thomas, Fisher, Gale; Worley, Ashby, Bates, Bullin, Horseman.

Leytonstone : Griffin; Allen, Wood; Nottage, Ron Hill, Messer; Ray Hill, Greenhill, Manze, Day, Duggan.

Ref. Sgt. B. Parsons (R.A.F.).

The Wycombe defence was soon under fire from the lively Leytonstone forwards and Brown made a fine save from a 20-yard free-kick by Messer.

When Wycombe got going, Bates twice won applause with powerful long-range shots only inches wide of the mark and then Gale was a little unlucky with a similar, speculative drive.

Controlling the ball well in spite of the slippery conditions, Wycombe had Leytonstone on the retreat for a long spell, with Worley and Bates conspicuous in some clever combined moves, and Griffin was kept busy in the visitors' goal.

FIRM GRIP

Gradually, however, Leytonstone gained a firmer grip on the game and the home defence was fully extended in place of several strong attacks in which centre forward Manze tested Brown.

Quick tackling and the treacherous surface of the pitch kept marksmanship at long range on both sides, but Ashby missed a good chance for Wycombe from one of Worley's accurate centres.

Then, just before half-time Brown saved Wycombe with a plucky clearance at the feet of inside-left Day.

Half-time: Wycombe Wanderers 0, Leytonstone 0.

Leytonstone were handicapped early in the second half by an injury to inside left, Roger Day, and with Wycombe setting the pace Fisher headed inches wide from a corner kick by Worley.

Leytonstone's smart interception continued to check Wycombe's forward moves and only Worley made much progress.

But it was left-winger HORSEMAN who eventually scored, 20 minutes after half-time heading in coolly from a copybook centre by Worley.

With Horseman moving over to partner Worley, and with Bates on the left wing for a spell, the Wycombe forwards produced some fireworks towards the end and after Bates had almost scored with a left-wing solo run Worley sent in a crashing shot which right back, Allen, stopped on the goal-line.

Just before the end PULLIN scored a second for Wycombe from a free-kick by Worley.

RESULT:

WYCOMBE WANDERERS 2
LEYTONSTONE 0